

## **COMMUNITY COLLEGE COUNCIL (CCC) MEETING NOTES**

**Wednesday, September 16, 2015**

**3:30 – 5:00 p.m. -- DE – ICN Room**

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### Those in attendance included:

- ❑ Linda Allen, President, Hawkeye Community College, and CCC Member (via conference call)
- ❑ Brooke Axiotis, CCC and State Board of Education Member
- ❑ MJ Dolan, Executive Director, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees
- ❑ Rosie Hussey, CCC and State Board of Education Member
- ❑ Mike Knedler, CCC and State Board of Education Member
- ❑ Pradeep Kotamraju, Chief, Bureau of Career and Technical Education
- ❑ Moudy Nabulsi, Community College Trustee, and CCC Member (via conference call)
- ❑ Eric St Clair, Consultant, Bureau of Career and Technical Education
- ❑ Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges
- ❑ Stephanie Weeks, Assistant to Jeremy Varner, Division of Community Colleges

### **I. Welcome and Introductions—Mike Knedler, Chair**

Chair Knedler called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Members and presenters introduced themselves.

### **II. Approval of Meeting Notes—Mike Knedler**

Chair Knedler asked for approval of the notes from the August 5, 2015, meeting of the CCC.

Action: Moudy Nabulsi moved and Rosie Hussey seconded to move to approve the meeting notes. The notes were passed unanimously by the CCC.

### **III. Division Updates—Jeremy Varner**

#### **A. Staffing**

The Division of Community Colleges is working to fill eight vacant positions in both the Bureau of Community Colleges and Bureau of Career and Technical Education. The division will soon seek candidates for chief of the Bureau of Community Colleges position, as well as staff positions related to communications, finance, and data/reporting. The division expects to begin interviewing for four vacant education program consultant (EPC) positions in the areas of adult education and literacy (AEL) and career and technical education (CTE). Together, these eight positions account for nearly a quarter of total positions, so the division is eager to have talented professionals join our team. Each EPC position provides the opportunity to provide state level leadership and includes a salary range up to \$83,000 and attractive benefits. When open, positions are posted on TeachIowa.gov complete with full description of each position and application information.

Del Hoover, EPC for Family and Consumer Sciences, retired on August 27. Del has had a long career in public service, serving in numerous positions within the department and several school district teaching and administrative positions.

Geoff Jones, Information Technology Specialist for the division, retired after 16 years with the division and department. His last day was August 13. Finally, Kent Farver, Bureau Chief for Community Colleges, left the division on August 28.

#### B. Equity Review Process Changes

An overhauled equity review process will be implemented in fall 2016, following a pilot in spring 2016. On August 4, the Community College Accreditation Advisory Committee (AAC) supported a division proposal to overhaul the community college equity review process. A team within the Division of Community Colleges has spent the past several months reviewing the current equity review processes to determine the feasibility of recoupling the equity review with the state accreditation process for community colleges. This review, as well as conversations with the Bureau of School Improvement and the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR), has resulted in a series of process improvements.

The division expects to merge the equity review with the community college state accreditation review, as many aspects of the equity review process are able to be addressed through components of the state accreditation review. Merging the processes will allow the division to leverage these components of the state accreditation review in an effort to streamline and gain efficiencies in the equity review. The division also expects to utilize the state accreditation review schedule as the basis for the equity review schedule.

Though considerable progress has been made toward recoupling the two processes, several aspects of the proposed process remain unsettled. Much of this is attributed to ensuring all expectations and requirements of OCR are addressed under the proposed process. The division and AAC expect numerous benefits from the equity process overhaul including reducing regulatory uncertainty and the invasiveness of visits, while increasing frequency, effectiveness, and consistency of reviews. Many of the proposed changes are analogous to changes made to the accreditation process in recent years. An equity review guide will be developed this academic year to clearly explain the process and expectations. The current parameters and expectations established for both K-12 and community college equity reviews outlined in the department's Methods of Administration (MOA) agreement with OCR will remain unchanged.

The Bureau of School Improvement will remain the lead coordinator for all department equity reviews, while responsibility for conducting community college equity reviews will transfer to the division. During the implementation, the division expects to continue to work closely with OCR, which must formally approve any change to the established secondary and community college equity review process.

#### C. Fall Edition of the Community College Leadership Bulletin (CCLB)

The fall edition of the CCLB was widely distributed, which included distribution to the CCC and State Board of Education. The winter edition is expected to be released in November.

In the fall edition, we included an interactive chart an effort to make community college data more accessible, the Division of Community Colleges is developing interactive data visualization tools to supplement its portfolio of static reports. This service is available on the division's website, through a partnership with the Iowa Association of Community College Trustees.

Currently, available datasets include credit enrollment for the past 15 years and employment outcomes. Data sets will continue to be added over the course of the academic year. Using the tools, users can manipulate and re-arrange the data in a variety of ways.

The user has the ability to download both resulting charts and data tables for further display, presentation, or processing. The tools permit mapping and, in some cases, animations which are useful in viewing longitudinal trends and peer comparisons. The tools are based on aggregate data and present no risk to student privacy. The division is interested in feedback on the tools and data of interest to stakeholders.

#### **D. Faculty Standards Task Force (FSTF) Subgroups**

Subgroups of the FSTF reconvened on September 1 to finalize numerous projects prior to the full FSTF meeting on September 29. The subgroups have been working since their inaugural May meeting on the following deliverables: 1) a template/spreadsheet for consistent evaluation and recording of faculty qualifications, including professional development plans for individuals to reach compliance; 2) a manual with a table of community college course disciplines to guide colleges in their assessment of faculty qualifications, including a working definition of ‘disciplines’ and ‘subfields’, and other factors that may be considered for qualifying Arts & Sciences, as well as CTE instructors; 3) a statewide implementation plan to establish steps and timelines for colleges to move toward compliance.

At the September 29 meeting, the subgroups will present their work, the plan will be reviewed and improved accordingly, legislative language will be drafted, and a vetting schedule will be established to get community college administrative and faculty input regarding the components of the plan. The task force also intends to share the plan with HLC staff to ensure that reviewers will understand and respect Iowa’s statewide approach to achieve consistency in methodology and documentation. The task force plans to vet the documents in October and November to meet a December 15th deadline for a final comprehensive plan. This plan will then be distributed to all community colleges in January 2016.

#### **IV. IACCT Update—MJ Dolan, Executive Director**

MJ distributed copies of the community colleges legislative priorities flyer. The community colleges of Iowa support the Iowa General Assembly and the Governor in the following:

State General Aid: Addressing disparity in higher education funding and increasing state general aid.

Workforce Training: Increasing funding and maintaining incentives that encourage business and industry to locate and expand in Iowa.

Career Technical Training: Adopting policies to assure all Iowans—high school and beyond—the opportunity to affordably transfer to four-year educational institutions or to obtain the training to pursue skilled career and technical education.

She also reported that Iowa community colleges are a \$500 million industry. Student spending annually generates \$200.8 million of labor income. She also reported that \$79.1 million annual state and local tax revenue comes from community college and students. She also presented the following statistics: 1) 13 percent of Iowans enrolled in a community college in FY 2014—21 percent of the working population; 2) FY 2010 student cohort wages increased from \$24,723 to \$33,030 in three years; and 3) 86,800 Iowans are served by worker training programs in FY 2014.

**V. Rules 281 IAC Chapter 25 – Pathways for Academic Career and Employment Program; Gap Tuition Assistance Program (Notice) – Jeremy Varner**

The revised 281 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) chapter 25 incorporates changes to Pathways for Academic Career and Employment Program and Gap Tuition Assistance Program included in House File 658, passed by the 2015 General Assembly of the State of Iowa. Changes associated with House File 658 include modifying the criteria to determine financial need by decreasing the family income requirement from twelve to six months, and adding two provisions which: (1) prioritize the provision of assistance to individuals earning income between 150 percent and 250 percent of the federal poverty level, and (2) bar individuals eligible from receiving assistance under the Gap Tuition Assistance Program if they are eligible for assistance under the federal Workforce Investment Act and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, unless all budgeted funds under these acts have been fully expended.

**Motion:** Rosie Hussey moved and Linda Allen seconded to move that the CCC recommend to the State Board to give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 25.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

**VI. 2015-16 Academic Year, Iowa Community Colleges Tuition and Fees Report—Jeremy Varner**

The Iowa Community Colleges Tuition and Fees Report is prepared each fiscal year. The report includes trends in tuition and fees among Iowa's community colleges as well as comparisons to Iowa's public universities and community colleges nationally. The Community College Tuition and Fees Report is prepared each fiscal year. The report includes trends in tuition and fees among Iowa's community colleges, as well as comparisons to other states and to Iowa's public universities. Median total in-state cost of enrollment for a full-time student enrolled in Iowa's community colleges will be \$164.50 per semester hour in fiscal year 2016, a 3.1 percent difference from last year. Median in-state tuition for a full-time student enrolled in Iowa's community colleges will be \$151.00 per semester hour in fiscal year 2016, a 3.4 percent difference from last year. Median mandatory fees will be \$13.50 per semester hour in fiscal year 2016, same as last year.

Provisional data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) suggest that average total enrollment costs per semester hour during fiscal year 2014 were higher among community colleges in Minnesota and South Dakota than corresponding costs in Iowa. Iowa ranked 44th in average total enrollment costs, placing it in the 85th percentile. By comparison, California, with the lowest average total enrollment costs, ranked first. IPEDS data suggest average total enrollment cost per semester hour at Iowa's community colleges was almost 11 percent higher than the regional average (\$132.83 per semester hour) in fiscal year 2014.

Although average tuition of Iowa's community colleges will be almost 42 percent lower than average tuition at Iowa's public universities in fiscal year 2016, tuition and fees account for approximately 53 percent of community colleges' unrestricted operating revenue. This percentage has gradually increased since 2005, which was just over 49 percent. During the same time period, state general aid has decreased from about 36 percent in 2005, to about 35 percent in 2014.

## **VII. Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Task Force Conversation—Pradeep Kotamraju**

The Secondary CTE Task Force has reached consensus on recommendations which outline a vision for all students to have the opportunity to pursue rewarding careers through access to high-quality, 21st century CTE programming. The recommendations focus on five crucial reforms – career guidance, career pathways, work-based learning, instructor training and professional development, and regional planning and centers.

The two facets of career guidance proposed by the task force include career exploration and academic planning. Beginning in middle school, students must learn of the career and college landscape in order to establish goals and create pathways through high school to accomplish those goals.

Career pathways structure secondary and postsecondary academic and technical coursework into a coherent, aligned, and sequenced framework which allows students to explore and gradually become immersed in a career field. This combination of academic and technical coursework will appropriately prepare students for success in career and college. Selection and formation of a pathway will be based on the student's career and college goals.

As part of the conversation around career pathways, the task force recognized a need to update the six CTE service areas to reflect the national Career Clusters® framework. This will facilitate alignment between secondary and postsecondary programs, as well as provide greater flexibility for school districts in offering coursework to students aligned with today's in-demand occupations.

Supplementing both career guidance and career pathways is meaningful work-based learning. Greater access to such opportunities can be realized through increased support of the state's Intermediary Networks and collaboration among organizations providing similar services.

Though presented as separate recommendations, career guidance, career pathways, and work-based learning must operate as a cohesive system; career guidance informs the formation of a student's career pathway, while both are influenced and informed through exposure to the world of work through work-based learning opportunities.

The last two recommendations - instructor supports, training, and professional development, and regional planning and regional centers - aim to provide a strong foundation for the practices discussed above.

Recognizing that strong CTE programs require strong CTE instructors, the task force adopted several measures which aim to support and increase the pool of qualified instructors. Among others, such measures include the removal of barriers into the profession and targeted professional development opportunities.

Strong CTE programs also require collaboration. The last recommendation put forward by the task force promotes collaboration by emphasizing regional partnerships and planning. Stemming from these partnerships, the task force envisions a statewide system of regional centers. Regional centers are the key to ensuring consistent and equitable access to high-quality technical programming for all students across the state.

The task force will adopt recommendations prior to November 1st. A final report will be submitted to the Governor, the Community College Council and State Board of Education, and the General Assembly. Following release of the report, the department is planning a series of listening sessions across the state to discuss the recommendations and gather feedback. Work on a legislative proposal for consideration next session is underway.

#### **VIII. Senior Year Plus (SYP) Postsecondary Course Audit Committee (PCAC) Update—Jeremy Varner and Eric St Clair**

The SYP PSCAC met on August 27, 2015, at the Department of Education. The SYP PSCAC is charged with annually auditing postsecondary courses offered to high school students in accordance with Iowa Code Chapter 261E (SYP). The committee must establish standards and a sampling technique that randomly selects courses for audit. The audit must include, at a minimum, a review of course syllabi, instructor qualifications, examples of student products, and results of student assessments.

In 2008, SYP legislation was signed into law. The legislation included a section (Iowa Code 256.17) that established the audit committee to annually review courses delivered through SYP to ensure they are college level. Courses not meeting the standards established by the committee are ineligible for supplementary weighting (to the school district).

Members include the following:

- Linda Allen, President, Hawkeye Community College
- Shari Blake, Curriculum Director, Maple Valley-Anthon Oto Community School District
- Kavita Dhanwada, Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate College, University of Northern Iowa
- Anita Micich, Superintendent, Mason City-Clear Lake Community School District
- Lon Moeller, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, Dean of the University College, University of Iowa
- Aiddy Phomvisay, Associate Director, Central Campus – Des Moines Public Schools
- Todd Prusha, Dean, Distance Learning/Secondary Programs, Kirkwood Community College
- Carl Smith, Professor and Chair, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Iowa State University
- Bill Taylor, Vice President of Instruction, Southwestern Community College

At the August meeting, Jeremy Varner updated the group on several initiatives impacting SYP, including the funding of student development (SDV) courses over the 100 level, efforts related to summer concurrent enrollment, the new Higher Learning Commission (HLC) assumed practice guidelines impacting instructor qualifications, and the Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Task Force. Eric St Clair presented on various joint enrollment data and trends contained in the *2014 Joint Enrollment Report*, and provided an overview of SYP and presented the group with a crosswalk of National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) and state standards.

Linda Allen serves on the NACEP Board of Directors. The NACEP organization is experiencing growth in membership and conference participation. NACEP is also seeing more interest in creating state chapters (currently one state chapter, Ohio). The NACEP board spun off the responsibility for accreditation to an accreditation commission. The commission reports to the NACEP board, but has the authority to approve and deny accreditation status. A statewide reaccreditation event will be held this fall as an opportunity to review NACEP standards, discuss best practices, and explore the creation of common approaches between colleges to show compliance with the standards.

The FY 2015 SYP PSCAC report, including the audit plan for FY 2016, was presented to the committee. This FY 2015 report summarizes the prior work of the PSCAC and efforts of all 15 community colleges to obtain NACEP-accredited status. The report notes that all 15 community colleges have obtained NACEP-accredited status. The audit plan for FY 2016 reaffirms that all colleges must demonstrate compliance with SYP state standards through NACEP-accredited status.

The SYP PSCAC requested more information on how change from Iowa Assessments to Smarter Balance will impact Senior Year Plus (proficiency requirement); and they asked for more conversation around placement exams (ALEK); discussion on college and career readiness, competency-based education, equity; and update on reaccreditation event. The work of this committee is ongoing.

#### **IX. For the Good of the Order**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next face-to-face meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m., at the Department of Education’s ICN Room.